

JUDGE HUMPHREYS CONDEMNED BY HAWAIIAN BAR

YESTERDAY'S meeting of the Bar Association of the Hawaiian Islands is without a parallel in the history of Hawaii, and it would be difficult to equal it in the annals of any country. For four hours, without intermission, there was carried on a fearless, earnest and brilliant debate upon a resolution censuring a judge, and another charging him with being a bitter and partisan political leader, changing his position on the bench to his personal ends; with being arrogant and abusive, and with having destroyed the confidence of the bar, and asking for his removal from office.

Judge Humphreys, judge of the First Circuit Court, his record and the ten months of his incumbency of the office, commanded attention which would have been flattering but for the continuous stream of indignant denunciation, differing only in degree of expression.

The association consists exclusively of members of the bar of the Hawaiian Islands. There are sixty-nine members, of whom seven are absent. Fifteen are in the city, but did not attend, and forty-seven were present.

The meeting was early manifested, when, by a unanimous vote, Alfred S. Hartwell was elected president of the association for the year. This was the association's reply to Judge Humphreys' attack last week, of the general to thirty days in jail for constructive contempt of court.

The routine business disposed of than the main subject of the meeting was brought to the front. The faces of the members were grave, when Representative Robertson suggested an executive session, a resolution relating to Judge Humphreys, in order that they might feel no constraint in their expressions; but the feeling was that publicity was wanted, the more the better, and the session was withdrawn.

Hon. A. G. M. Robertson read the scathing resolution hereunder; a resolution which characterizes Abram S. Humphreys as such language as was never before used concerning a judge in the annals of the Hawaiian Islands, save only references to England's judicial monster.

The resolution struck an answering chord. Not all the adroitness of F. J. Perry, and his flank attack by way of a substitute resolution, could prevent men assembled from doing that which they felt to be the protection of their own rights and those of the people of Hawaii.

The feature of the debate was the unanimity with which all the members of the association, even those who opposed the Robertson resolution, the only difference between them was a matter of degree.

Forty-seven members present, three were excused from voting. The resolution, two voted against both resolutions, and one voted for the Robertson resolution. As two of those who voted for the Robertson resolution, are known to have been in favor of the resolution, the vote of censure was practically unanimous.

The following is a full report of the resolutions, the part taken by each member, and, with a few unimportant omissions, a complete report of the addresses:

RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY HON. F. M. HATCH
AND THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO VOTED FOR IT

RESOLVED, That the Bar Association of the Hawaiian Islands deprecates the attitude of Hon. A. S. Humphreys towards the attorneys of his court as an infringement of the right of every lawyer to practice law peacefully and independently in the interests of the public.

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HAWAII WILL NOT TOLERATE THIS KIND OF JUSTICE.

M. HATCH,
L. D. SILLIMAN,
P. E. THOMPSON.

B. L. MARK,
T. M. STEWART.

RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY HON. A. G. M. ROBERTSON AND THOSE WHO VOTED FOR IT

WHEREAS the Honorable A. S. HUMPHREYS, Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, Territory of Hawaii, has continued since his appointment as judge to publish and control a partisan newspaper, and has taken and continues to take an active and leadership in bitter political controversies in the Territory; and

WHEREAS the said Hon. A. S. Humphreys has taken this position on the bench for his own personal political ends; and

WHEREAS the said Hon. A. S. Humphreys has been arrogant and insulting in his conduct toward members of the bar and has abused his powers over attorneys and others appearing before his Court; and

WHEREAS, the course of conduct of said Hon. A. S. Humphreys since his appointment to the bench has destroyed the confidence of the bar in his administration of justice;

IT IS RESOLVED, that the Bar Association of the Hawaiian Islands deem it absolutely necessary in the interests of the administration of Justice in this Territory that said A. S. Humphreys be removed from the office of Judge; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Committee of five members of this Association be appointed to investigate the charges against the said A. S. Humphreys, to take depositions and statements of the members of this Association and others of and concerning the conduct and acts of the said A. S. Humphreys, and that said charges and depositions be so prepared be presented to the President and Attorney-General of the United States by a member of this Bar to be appointed by said Committee of Five, and that all expenses of procuring evidence and presenting the same be paid by this Association; and that said member or members present the said charges in the name and by the authority of this Association, and shall respectfully demand the removal of the said Honorable A. S. Humphreys from the said office of Judge.

W. C. ACHI,
LORRIN ANDREWS,

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| W. N. ARMSTRONG,
A. M. BROWN,
W. O. SMITH,
W. L. WILCOX,
CECIL BROWN,
W. R. CASTLE,
S. F. CHILLINGWORTH,
G. A. DAVIS,
E. P. DOLE,
S. K. KANE,
J. L. KAULUKOU,
R. D. MEAD,
A. L. C. ATKINSON,
W. A. WHITING,
F. ANDRADE,
A. LEWIS JR.,
H. A. BIGELOW,
W. W. THAYER. | S. M. BALLOU,
A. G. M. ROBERTSON,
P. L. WEAVER,
A. A. WILDER,
A. W. CARTER,
J. W. CATHCART,
A. G. CORREA,
J. T. DE BOLT,
F. W. HANKEY,
J. M. KANEAKUA,
W. A. KINNEY,
C. F. PETERSON,
A. F. JUDD,
L. A. THURSTON,
F. M. BROOKS,
L. A. DICKEY,
W. L. STANLEY. |
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Favorable to Robertson resolution, but excused from voting: A. S. Hartwell, C. C. Biting.
Court stenographer, excused from voting: D. H. Case.
Voting against both resolutions: J. A. Magoon, — Milverton.
Absent from the city: George D. Gear, E. B. McClanahan, M. F. Prosser, H. P. Weber, J. Q. Wood, George Hons, G. F. Little.
In the city, but not attending: F. J. Perry, E. Cayless, H. E. Cooper, J. M. Davidson, Henry Holmes, A. S. Humphreys, Enoch Johnson, J. K. Kaulia, J. M. Monsarrat, Paul Neumann, W. C. Parke, J. M. Vivas, — Robinson, J. A. Mathewman, E. C. Peters.

THE PROCEEDINGS.

The addresses were as follows:
ROBERTSON OFFERS THE RESOLUTION.
Mr. A. G. M. Robertson states that he has a resolution to present to the meeting, and under suggestions from some of the members of the association that the resolution be considered in executive session, moves that the resolution be considered in executive session.
Motion seconded by Mr. Kaulukou.

Mr. T. McCants Stewart opposes the motion to consider the resolution in executive session.
W. O. Smith, E. P. Dole, F. W. Hankey and J. T. De Bolt support Mr. Stewart and oppose the motion to consider the resolution in executive session.
Mr. Robertson states that he made the motion only upon the suggestion of some of the members and that the views expressed by the speakers are his views, and therefore withdraws the motion, and offers the following resolution and moves its adoption:
(See resolution elsewhere.)
W. O. SMITH SECONDS THE RESOLUTION.
Mr. W. O. Smith. I rise to second the adoption of the motion. I do so with great regret. I regret, withal, that there is occasion for any such action as is contemplated. The relations between the Bench and the Bar have been of such a nature in the past that it is an exceedingly painful thing that we should, as a body, or that so many of us should feel constrained to take such action, or to suggest that such action be taken. If any one has ever had the responsibility for making a motion before the Court to disbar a practitioner he knows how painful that is and how hard it is. This is even more so. I feel very much the reflection, the dishonor, the disgrace which this resolution will carry if it is adopted, or which the suggestion of it carries, and I would not support it were it not that I believe that it should be done. Action of this kind should not be taken in haste; such action should be deliberate and open. We have our reasons for it and it should only be done when there are very grave reasons for it.
In my mind, the most important reason that justifies this action is the abuse of power which His Honor Judge Humphreys has exercised on several occasions, and on a very recent occasion. It seems to me that the condition of affairs in the Circuit Court of the First Circuit has become intolerable and should stop.

STEWART OPPOSES THE RESOLUTION.
Mr. T. McCants Stewart. I am opposed to the resolution. I had no idea of the resolution other than what I obtained from the public press, and we cannot always rely upon the public press. I did not know that such a resolution would be submitted to the meeting.
Now, I must say that we better be very careful—I do not mean careful from the point of view of fear, or lack of courage, but we are certainly in bad shape, and the Bar Association had better be very careful that we do not make a bad matter worse. Nobody regrets more than I do the situation.
I have told in his absence that while I am indebted only for advice, yet it was advice given under such circumstances and in such a way as to put me